

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Support for the amendments to the claims with respect to solutions substantially free or free of cobalt can be found at, e.g., at page 10, par. [0073].

Claim 56 rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Meagher. Applicants respectfully traverse. It is not believed that this applies to the presently amended claim 56.

Claims 35-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the combination of Meagher and Ishii. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Meagher fails to disclose a cold working step. Furthermore, Meagher fails to disclose the claimed amount of nitroguanidine. The Examiner alleges this would have been obvious, however, since Meagher's composition must contain cobalt, it is not readily apparent from the reference or from the Examiner how one would arrive at the amount of nitroguanidine simply by reading Meagher.

Ishii teaches away from the use of nitrogen-containing accelerators (see col. 2, lines 51-64, and specifically teaches away from the use of nitroguanidine (Col. 2, lines 18-24).

Ishii also teaches away from the use of chlorates because chloride can cause drastic declines in corrosion resistance of the metal (col. 1, line 65-Col. 2, lines 1-7), and also from the use of peroxide (Col. 2, lines 8-17).

In view of the foregoing, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 55 and 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ishii. Applicants respectfully traverse. The deficiencies of Ishii are discussed above, and are applicable here. Thus, this rejection must also be withdrawn.

Claims 35-42 and 46-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bartik-Himmler in view of Ishii. As discussed above, Ishii teaches away from a broad range of components, at least some of which are specifically included in the formulations of Bartik-Himmler, so this rejection must be withdrawn.

Claims 43-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bartik-Himmler in view of Ishii and Meagher.

The deficiencies of the combination of Bartik-Himmler in view of Ishii are discussed above and are applicable here. Meagher does nothing to overcome these deficiencies. Thus, this rejection must be withdrawn.

Claims 35-46, 50-52 and 54-57 were provisionally rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims of copending US application 10/555,929. Applicants will address this issue after an indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 35-57 were provisionally rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims of co-pending application no. 10/467,850. Applicants respectfully submit that they will address this upon the indication of allowable subject matter.

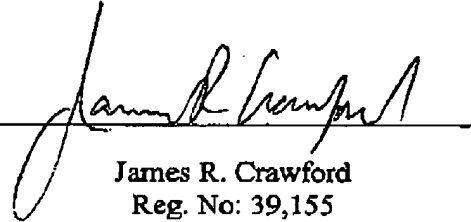
In view of the foregoing, allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any fee associated with this filing from
Deposit Account No. 50-0624.

Respectfully submitted,

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